

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, why number of iron ore mines which were so long controlled by RMD are transferred to steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) The restructuring plan of Steel Authority of India Limited approved by Government, among business restructuring measures includes, a change from the present functional structure to a strategic business unit (SBU) structure. In the proposed SBU structure, Rourkela Steel Plant and Bokaro Steel Plant will be part of Flat Products SBU, and Durgapur Steel Plant and Bhilai Steel will be part of Long Products SBU and the mines are to be placed directly under the SBUs, based on geographical location. Under the SBU structure, there will be no need for a separate Raw Materials Division. The blueprint of SBI structure prepared by a Board Sub-Committee of SAIL has been circulated to the SAIL Board. No final decision has so far been taken.

**Decline in Production of Public Sector Steel Plants under SAIL**

486. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in production in all the public sector steel plants under the Steel Authority of India Ltd., during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether SAIL has any proposal to plug the loopholes and to increase the production in coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Saleable steel production of SAIL declined in 1997-98 as the production had to be regulated due to sluggish market conditions. Saleable steel production picked up in 1999-2000 with 10% growth over previous year with improvement in market. The production during 2000-01 (up to January, 2001) has further increased by 3% over same period last year.

(c) and (d) The increase in production in coming years is dependent on market conditions.